



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/584,939

07/05/2006

Masaki Magarisawa

128207

1138

25944

7590

08/20/2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC

P.O. BOX 320850

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850

EXAMINER

THOMPSON, BRADLEY E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

4113

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/20/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/584,939	Applicant(s) MAGARISAWA, MASAKI	
	Examiner BRADLEY THOMPSON	Art Unit 4113	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>Jul 5 2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. **Claims 17-20** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. The phrase "stepped cylindrical casing including a first step and a second step" in **claim 17** is a relative phrase which renders the claim indefinite. The phrase is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. Further regarding **claim 17**, it is unclear as to whether this claim refers to the casing 14 of the "terminal member" or the case 2 of the vehicle horn. Clarification is needed.

4. The phrase "concave surface is complementary to the first step" in **claim 18** is a relative phrase which renders the claim indefinite. The phrase is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite

Art Unit: 4113

degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

5. The phrase "depth of the first step" in **claim 19** is a relative phrase which renders the claim indefinite. The phrase is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

Regarding **claim 20**; claim 17, on which claim 20 depends, is rejected for being vague or ambiguous as stated above. Therefore, claim 20 is rejected for having incorporated the indefiniteness of independent claim 17.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. **Claim 1** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. (US Patent 6,317,033), hereinafter referred to as Kobayashi, in view of Shimada et al. (US Patent 6,332,458) hereinafter referred to as Shimada.

Regarding **claim 1**, Kobayashi is drawn to a vehicle horn housed in a cylindrical case 1 having a recessed portion 1d which projects outward from the bottom surface 1a of the case. A coil bobbin 4 sits in the recessed portion of the case 1. Applicant is directed to figures 1 and 2 and to lines 57-67 column 2 and to lines 19-20 column 3. Kobayashi further recites terminal ports 10 which are mounted external to the cylindrical case and which have lead-ins to the electromagnetic coil on the bobbin. Applicant is directed to figure 3 items 10. This teaching reads directly on “a terminal member, provided with terminal plates for supplying electric power to a winding of the exciting coil, arranged on an outer peripheral surface of the bottom piece part of the cylindrical casing”.

However, Kobayashi fails to disclose a “noise preventing member” (capacitor) provided with the terminals.

In a field of similar endeavor, Shimada is drawn to an ignition coil device with primary and secondary coils, coil bobbin and adopted to an engine with plastic cylinder head covers. Shimada further reveals a noise prevention capacitor 71 sealed in resin and attached to power terminals 31 and 72. Applicant is particularly directed to figures 22 and 26 of Shimada and to the teaching of lines 37-50 column 30 and lines 60-67 column 31.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the vehicle horn of Kobayashi by specifically providing a noise prevention capacitor, embedded in resin, for the purpose of suppressing the leakage of noise to other parts of the engine bay.

Regarding **claim 2**, the apparatus teachings of Kobayashi and Shimada as applied above (see claim 1). Specifically, in lines 44-50 column 30, Shimada recites wherein “a metal fitting of the ground exclusive connector (a capacitor ground use terminal) 72 of the noise prevention capacitor 71 is added and this is accommodated in a connector housing 9B. And the noise prevention capacitor 71 is connected between this connector terminal 72 and the power supply connection use (+ power supply) connector terminal 31”.

Regarding **claim 3**, the apparatus teachings of Kobayashi and Shimada as applied above (see claim 1). Specifically, the terminal unit and terminals are exhibited as items S2 and 10 in figures 1 and 2 of Kobayashi.

Regarding **claim 4**, the apparatus teachings of Kobayashi and Shimada as applied above (see claim 1). Specifically, as indicated in the rejection of claim 3, Kobayashi shows in figure 1 that the terminal unit does not extend beyond the recessed part of the bottom part 1b of the case 1.

Art Unit: 4113

Regarding **claim 5**, the apparatus teachings of Kobayashi and Shimada as applied above (see claim 1). Specifically, in lines 51-58 column 30, Shimada teaches the accommodation space for the noise prevention capacitor 71 and Shimada further teaches wherein the accommodation space is filled with resin in lines 59-67 column 31.

Regarding **claim 6**, Kobayashi and Shimada disclose everything as applied above (see claim 2). Further, the claim is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 3.

Regarding **claim 7**, Kobayashi and Shimada disclose everything as applied above (see claim 2). Further, the claim is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 4.

Regarding **claim 8**, Kobayashi and Shimada disclose everything as applied above (see claim 3). Further, the claim is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 4.

Regarding **claim 9**, Kobayashi and Shimada disclose everything as applied above (see claim 6). Further, the claim is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 4.

Art Unit: 4113

Regarding **claim 10**, Kobayashi and Shimada disclose everything as applied above (see claim 2). Further, the claim is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 5.

Regarding **claim 11**, Kobayashi and Shimada disclose everything as applied above (see claim 3). Further, the claim is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 5.

Regarding **claim 12**, Kobayashi and Shimada disclose everything as applied above (see claim 4). Further, the claim is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 5.

Regarding **claim 13**, Kobayashi and Shimada disclose everything as applied above (see claim 6). Further, the claim is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 5.

Regarding **claim 14**, Kobayashi and Shimada disclose everything as applied above (see claim 7). Further, the claim is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 5.

Art Unit: 4113

Regarding **claim 15**, Kobayashi and Shimada disclose everything as applied above (see claim 8). Further, the claim is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 5.

Regarding **claim 16**, Kobayashi and Shimada disclose everything as applied above (see claim 9). Further, the claim is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 5.

Regarding **claim 17**, the apparatus teachings of Kobayashi and Shimada as applied above. Specifically, in line 65 column 4 through line 5 column 5, Kobayashi recites a contact mounting piece 4f with terminals 10 fixed to mounting holes 4m and 4n. The contact mounting piece 4f is exhibited in figures 2 and 3(A). Further, Shimada teaches a noise preventing capacitor attached to terminals 31 and 72 and mounted in the space between terminals as stated above in the rejection of claim 1.

Regarding **claim 18**, Kobayashi and Shimada disclose everything as applied above (see claim 17). Further, the claim is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 17.

Regarding **claim 19**, Kobayashi and Shimada disclose everything as applied above (see claim 17). Further, the claim is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 17.

Regarding **claim 20**, Kobayashi and Shimada disclose everything as applied above (see claim 17). Further, the claim is interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 5.

Citation of Pertinent Art

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

US 4,097,861	Jun 27 1978	Pariza	D.C. Horn
US 5,952,908	Sep 14 1999	Kubo	Coil Bobbin and an Exciting Coil Assembly
US 20020125061	Sep 12 2002	Kawamura	Steering Wheel Electrical Power Transmission and Signal Exchange Device

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRADLEY THOMPSON whose telephone number is (571)270-5583. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8 to 5.

Art Unit: 4113

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jefferey Harold can be reached on 571-272-7519. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BRADLEY THOMPSON
Examiner
Art Unit 4113

BET
/Jefferey F Harold/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4113

